Banks Loans in Orissa

3224. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of loan disbursed in rural areas of Orissa by the various banks located in the State during each of the last three years and in the current year so far; and

(b) the percentage of such loans in comparison to the total deposits in the banks during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The outstanding credit as at end March of the last three years of branches of scheduled commercial banks located in rural areas in Orissa and the percentage of such credit to corresponding deposits, as available from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given below :

As on the last Friday of	Outstanding Bank Credit of rural branches (Rs. crore)	Percentage of Outstanding bank credit of rural branches to corresponding deposits.
March 1994	889.89	73.31
March 1995	1018.71	63.96
March 1996	1135.10	59.93

Banking Licence to Bennet Coleman and Co.

3225. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued a banking licence to Bennet Coleman and Company to set up Times Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;

(c) whether decision of giving banking licence is in tune with the rules and regulations of banking system; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The Reserve Bank of India, which is the competent authority for granting licences for setting up Banks in the private sector, has issued a licence to Bennet Coleman and Company to set up a bank. The licence has been issued after examining the application received from the Company in the light of the guidelines relating to the grant of licences to private sector banks.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Coffee etc.

3226. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of countries to which coffee, cardamom, chilly and tobacco was exported during the last three years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom yearwise;

(c) the percentage share of India in the world exports of the above commodities;

(d) the main producing States in the country for the above items; and

(e) the steps taken to explore the new markets in the world to boost the exports of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The country-wise details of export of various commodities are available in the printed monthly publication "Foreign Trade Statistics of India" issued by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta and copies of the same are available in the Parliament House in the Library. However, the total export of these commodities in the last three years and foreign exchanges earned are as follows :

(Qty: Mts; Value: Rs Crs.)

Item	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Coffee	136690	586.99	137395	1096.33	170581	1524.00
Cardamom (small)	387	14.55	257	7.63	500	12.40
Cardmom (large)	1797	12.57	1293	8.13	1784	12.35
Chilli	30776	72.14	20096	57.12	56073	194.14
Tobacco	104676	461.19	53732	254.75	71430	365.81

(c) The percentage share of India in the world export approx. are as follows :

Coffee	-	4.00%	(1995-96)
Chilli	-	93.46%	
Cardamom small	-	3.33%	
Cardamom large	-	59.76%	
Tobacco	-	3.3%	(As per World Trade Export figure of 1994)

(d) The main producing States in the country for the various items are as follows :

Coffee	-	Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu
Tobacco (VFC)	-	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka
Cardamom (small)	-	Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala
Cardamom (large)	-	Sikkim, West Bengal
Chillies	-	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

(e) The steps taken to explore the new market in the world to boost the export of coffee, cardmom chilli and tobacco are as under :

Coffee :

(i) Regular participation in selected food fares/ exhibition abroad with the active association of exporters.

(ii) Release of advertisements on the unique features of Indian coffee in selected overseas trade journals like world coffee and tea, coffee and cocoa International, F.O. Light etc.

(iii) Circulation of especially prepared multi-coloured folders and other literature on Indian coffee

(iv) Preparation and supply of gift packets of Indian coffee.

Cardamom and Chilli :

Sending delegations to the overseas countries, organising buyer-seller meets, organising world Spice Congress, participation in international fairs etc.

Tobacco :

(i) Tabacco Board plans FCV tobacco crop size in Andhra Pradesh after obtaining export requirements of trade and industry.

(ii) Tobacco exports from Andhra Pradesh are allowed to Russia under 'Debt Repayment Route'. Efforts are being made to enhance tobacco exports to Russia at the rate of 30,000 tonne per year against 'Debt Repayment.

(iii) Tobacco Board sponsors trade delegations to various countries for promoting tobacco exports from Andhra Pradesh.

(iv) Participation in the international exhibitions.

(v) Advertising in the international magazines.

Annual Conference of I.T.

3227. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Annual conference of Income Tax Chief Commissioners and Director General was organised at New Delhi in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some objectives for holding such meeting have been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An All India Conference of Chief Commissioners and Directors General of Income-tax was held in New Delhi on November 13-14, 1996.

(c) to (e). The objectives for holding the Conference are to review the performance of the Department in the preceding months of the financial year and to deliberate on the strategy to be adopted not only to achieve but also to exceed the action plan targets. The Conference also serves as an experience sharing forum for the top tax administrators of the country.

The following specific subjects were discussed in the Conference :

(i) Review of collection;

(ii) Review of computerisation work with particular emphasis on allotment of Permanent Account Number and processing of challans;

(iii) Augmentation of infrastructure;

(iv) Widening of tax base;

(v) Suggestions for legislative amendments;

(vi) Review of limited scrutiny scheme; and

(vii) Long term training needs.

The aforesaid objectives of holding the Conference were achieved. Administrative decisions were taken and suggestions made in the Conference were noted for future action.